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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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15 JUL 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Fubini's Proposed NRO/JRC Proposal

1. I know very little of the background for this proposal except that:

a. The JCS, with General LeMay in the lead, proposed to take over all reconnaissance aircraft, including OXCART.

b. McNamara and Fubini reportedly rejected this concept and told JCS not to forward such a proposal.

I presume that the present proposal is a successor to this history.

2. The main problem I see lies in Paragraph 3, which gives to McNamara the option of transferring NRO missions to the JCS "during periods of war or tension". I believe that this should be Mr. McCone's decision or at least a joint one.

3. My concern springs from the quality of our experience with DOD on reconnaissance matters. First, we pooled our reconnaissance

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programs with theirs under a joint office - NRO. We then turned over control of that office - both operationally and review-wise - to DOD people. The effect of this control during the past year has been to eliminate CIA from active participation in satellite reconnaissance. The same combination is now actively seeking to pull TAGBOARD into DOD leaving only OXCART in CIA. It seems to me that this new agreement provides the tool for excluding the CIA from manned reconnaissance operations on the decision of DOD. Of course we cannot presume that this agreement will be so exploited. However, I do wonder what we gain by placing such weapons in the hands of an organization which has found it difficult to resist using them in the past.

4. At the very last, we had best spell out the vehicles in Paragraph 2 which are to be included in the agreement.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

cc: DD/R (Giller)

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